

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 11, line 27 through page 12, line 8, please replace the current paragraph with the paragraph listed below:

The 3' conserved regions of the wild-type influenza virus have the following sequences:

Influenza A: 5'-CCUGCUUUUGCU-3' (SEQ ID NO: 10)

Influenza B: 5'-NN(C/U)GCUUCUGCU-3' (SEQ ID NO: 11)

Influenza C: 5'-CCUGCUUCUGCU-3' (SEQ ID NO: 12)

Moreover, the 13 nucleotide conserved influenza 5'-terminal sequence may be modified by replacement of one or two nucleotides occurring in said sequence as positions 3 and 8 by other nucleotides, again provided that the introduced nucleotides are forming a base pair.

The 5' conserved regions of the wild-type influenza virus have the following sequences:

Influenza A: 5'-AGUAGAAACAAGG (SEQ ID NO: 16)

Influenza B: 5'-AGUAG(A/U)AACA(A/G)NN (SEQ ID NO: 17)

Influenza C: 5'-AGCAGUAGCAAG(G/A) (SEQ ID NO: 18)

On page 12, line 10 through page 13, line 4, please replace the current paragraph with the paragraph listed below:

Preferred influenza viruses of the invention are those wherein in the 3' conserved region the replacements G3A and C8U have been performed, more preferred are those where also the replacement U5C has been performed (the above mutations are relative to the 3' end; such counting from the 3' end is also indicated by a line on top of the digit, i.e., G 3A). Another

Application No. 09/914,658
Amendment Dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 15, 2004

preferred influenza virus mutant comprises the 3'-terminal nucleotide sequence G3C, U5C and C8G (relative to the 3' end) giving the following 3' terminal nucleotide sequence 5'-CCUCGUUCUCCU-3'. (SEQ ID NO: 14) Among the influenza viruses defined hereinbefore those having a 3'-terminal nucleotide sequence of 5'-CCUGUUUCUACU-3' (SEQ ID NO: 13) are not preferred. In case of an influenza A virus the segment may further have the modifications U3A and A8U in its 5' terminal sequence, in case of influenza C it may have the modifications C3U and G8A in its 5' terminal sequence. The most preferred influenza viruses of the present invention comprise the following general structures:

Influenza A (mutant pHL 1104):

5'-AGUAGAAACAAGGNNNU₅₋₆ (880-2300 ntds)..N'N'N'CCUCUUUCUACU-3'

(SEQ ID NO: 19)

Influenza A (mutant pHL 1920):

5'-AGAAGAAUCAAGGNNNU₅₋₆ (880-2300 ntds)..N'N'N'CCUCUUUCUACU-3'

(SEQ ID NO: 20)

Influenza A (mutant pHL 1948):

5'AGUAGAAACAAGGNNNU₅₋₆ (880-2300 ntds) N'N'N'CCUCGUUCUCCU-3' (SEQ

ID NO: 24)

Influenza B:

5'AGUAG(A/U)AACA(A/G)NNNNNU₅₋₆ (880-2300

ntds)..N'N'N'N'N'(C/U)GUUUCUACU-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Influenza C:

Application No. 09/914,658
Amendment Dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 15, 2004

5'-AGUAGUAACAAG(G/A)GU₅₋₆..(880-2300 ntds)..CCCCUGUUUCUACU-3' (SEQ

ID NO: 22)